

Fool Me Once

Americans grill Netanyahu on social media after he suggests Iran could attack Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort

Trump and Netanyahu at the White House on Sep. 29.

UAE, EU anger Iran yet again with renewed claims to historic Persian islands

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson has categorically rejected interventionist and unfounded allegations in a joint statement issued at a foreign ministerial meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union.

Esmail Baghaei noted the allegations, particularly the rehash of claims by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the three Iranian islands of the Greater and Lesser Tunbs as well as Abu Musa, amount to unwarranted interference in Iran's defense matters and the country's nuclear issue. ▶ Page 2

Iran announces major gas, oil discovery at Pazan field

TEHRAN – Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad announced a significant hydrocarbon discovery at the Pazan field, located in southern Fars Province, that could add an estimated 10 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas to the country's reserves. The find follows an eight-year dormancy in exploration at that field, he said.

The Pazan field lies about 21 kilometers from Jam in Bushehr Province. Based on exploratory drilling of a second well, tests confirmed substantial gas volumes.

If a 70 percent recovery rate is applied, some seven Tcf of gas could eventually be extracted—equivalent to roughly 17 to 18 years of output from a single phase of the South Pars field. (On the basis of this estimate, the discovery holds considerable strategic weight.) ▶ Page 4

Mehr Media Group hosts roundtable on Gaza ceasefire and Palestinian future

TEHRAN – The Mehr Media Group convened a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Palestinian issue on the second anniversary of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Hamas' surprise military operation in southern Israel that reshaped regional dynamics and highlighted Gaza's plight.

The forum, titled "The Future of Gaza in Light of Trump's Plan," coincided with negotiations in Egypt between Hamas, Israel, and U.S. representatives regarding Donald Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan for Gaza. The plan envisions an immediate ceasefire, the release of all captives within 72 hours, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. It also stipulates humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and the right of Palestinians to remain in—or return freely to—Gaza.

Experts and analysts attending the meeting, including Mansour Barati, researcher on Israeli affairs; Mohammad Bayat, expert in international relations; and Hossein Hooshmand, U.S. affairs analyst, agreed that Operation Al-Aqsa Storm revived the Palestinian cause after years of marginalization and forced it back onto the global stage.

'Unprecedented Arab abandonment.' What Hamas means, and why Gaza calls it betrayal

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – On the second anniversary of October 7's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Hamas issued a statement that landed like a verdict, denouncing what it called "shameful international silence and complicity, and unprecedented Arab abandonment."

Those words are not merely rhetoric inside Gaza; they are a political diagnosis offered by a society that has been shelled, starved, and repeatedly displaced.

The statement seeks to do more than remember martyrs — it accuses regional rulers and global powers of trading Palestinian dignity for stability and deals while Gaza burns.

"Arab abandonment," as Hamas frames it, points to a rupture in expectations. For generations, Palestinians expected Arab capitals to translate public solidarity into political leverage.

Long standing China-U.S. rivalry

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – The United States and China have one of the world's most and complex historical relationship. Since 1949, the countries have experienced period of both tension and cooperation over issues like trade, climate change, and Taiwan.

At the recent UN Security Council meeting in New York Chinese Premier signaled desire for stable U.S. relations and urged American executives to help maintain a fragile détente between Beijing and Washington.

Today, American policy makers fear that China will leapfrog the United States in technologies that matter the most today, including robotics and artificial intelligence.

Beijing and Washington are also competing for their geopolitical global influence. An example is Beijing's fierce opposition to American return to the abandoned Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, about 800 kilometers from China.

▶ Page 5

Resalat suspension: Turning law into a tool to counter cultural resistance

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—In a move described as an attempt to save Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's image and avoid a new political crisis, the Lebanese government has decided to "suspend" the license granted to the Lebanese Association for the Arts (Resalat).

Meanwhile, the suspension will remain in effect pending the results of the administrative and criminal investigations initiated by the Public Prosecution Office.

The decision, announced after a cabinet session chaired by President Joseph Aoun, came after the association illuminated the Raouche Rock with the images of Hezbollah's two martyred secretaries-general, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine.

Political and human rights circles considered this move a clear political attack, not based on any explicit legal text. ▶ Page 5

Tourism ministry highlights intl. collaboration, domestic restoration efforts

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts held a press meeting on Tuesday to outline recent achievements in cultural preservation, international heritage registration, and domestic restoration projects, emphasizing cooperation with Iranians abroad and neighboring countries.

Regarding the "immense" potential of expatriates, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, stressed the government's commitment to strengthening ties with Iranians living abroad. ▶ Page 6



'United Iran' event commemorates national unity during 12-day war

TEHRAN – The national event "United Iran", celebrating the Iranian people's unity and compassion during the recent 12-day conflict with the Zionist regime, was held Tuesday morning, October 7, at Imam Khomeini Hosseiniyah in Tehran.

Attendees included families of martyrs from the recent 12-day war, jihadist activists, key figures from the Resistance, and participants in the United Iran campaign.

During the ceremony, Hojjatolislam Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, lauded the Iranian people's spirit of selflessness and solidarity, emphasizing Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's pivotal role in supporting the oppressed.

Iran-Iraq partnership goes beyond borders, says Baghdad's top diplomat

TEHRAN – Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein has underscored the depth and strategic nature of relations between Iraq and Iran, saying the partnership between the two countries goes beyond geography and is rooted in cultural, social, religious, and economic bonds.

In an interview with Iraq's official news agency, Hussein discussed Iraq's foreign policy priorities, relations with neighboring and Western countries, the country's democratic process, and efforts to tackle the ongoing water and climate crisis.

Hussein said Iraq's foreign policy has evolved from post-war reconstruction to active regional diplomacy.

"Iraq has transformed from a country struggling with internal challenges into one that contributes to resolving disputes between other nations," he said. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

The West's violations of commitments hit record high

In an article, Jam-e-Jam addressed the West's endless breaches of commitments, including the nuclear inspection agreement signed between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Cairo, Egypt, on September 10. It wrote: The history of Iran's negotiations with the West in recent years is full of deceit and breach of commitments, from betraying the JCPOA to burying the Cairo Agreement. The massive Israeli and American airstrikes on Iran, two days before the fifth round of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington, were a fatal blow to diplomacy. More than 120 countries considered these attacks a clear aggression and condemned them. However, in the post-war atmosphere and following the request of European countries, Iran pursued the path of dialogue with the IAEA to achieve a new framework for limited but targeted inspections, which resulted in the Cairo Agreement. In an official statement, Rafael Grossi, the IAEA director general, called it a practical step to restore trust and said that this agreement demonstrates Iran's good intentions. But the West cut it off with deceit. The Cairo Agreement was designed based on the principle of cooperation, but it only lasted two weeks. The activation of the snapback was the peak of killing diplomacy.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The enemy is always the loser

Siasat-e-Rooz argued in an editorial that the Zionist enemy ultimately remains the loser. It contends that although Israel has achieved some tactical gains against resistance groups and briefly shifted the regional balance, it has not secured decisive victories in Gaza: it has neither freed prisoners held by resistance forces nor defeated Hamas, nor fully occupied the territory. Resistance, the editorial maintains, continues across the region. The piece adds that efforts by hostile states and groups to disarm Hezbollah have failed, Iran emerged victorious in the 12-day June war, and Yemen continues to unsettle Israel. Taken together, these developments, it argues, show that Israel is in a critical position. Given events in Palestine, the editorial concludes that countries must strengthen themselves because negotiations and compromise yield no results; as evidence, it cites attacks on Iran by Israel and the United States during ongoing talks between Iranian and American diplomats. Ultimately, it calls for a new world order—abandoning capitalist-driven unilateralism in favor of fair multilateralism to overcome the current crisis.

Iran-Iraq partnership goes beyond borders, says Baghdad's top diplomat



TEHRAN – Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein has underscored the depth and strategic nature of relations between Iraq and Iran, saying the partnership between the two countries goes beyond geography and is rooted in cultural, social, religious, and economic bonds.

In an interview with Iraq's official news agency, Hussein discussed Iraq's foreign policy priorities, relations with neighboring and Western countries, the country's democratic process, and efforts to tackle the ongoing water and climate crisis.

Hussein said Iraq's foreign policy has evolved from post-war reconstruction to active regional diplomacy.

"Iraq has transformed from a country struggling with internal challenges into one that contributes to resolving disputes between other nations," he said.

He noted that Baghdad hosted five rounds of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as

Ettelaat: Will China remain a customer of Iranian oil after snapback sanctions?

Ettelaat examined Iran's oil sale after the activation of the snapback sanctions in an interview with energy expert Mahmoud Khaghani. He said: The return of international sanctions against Iran has caused many doubts about the country's income because when the amount of trade with other countries declines, dollar income decreases by the same amount, and as a result, financial irregularities increase. Today, most of Iran's oil is purchased by private refineries in China. In fact, so far these refineries have not been directly affected by the White House's (secondary) sanctions as they have not extensive relations with the United States. China always defends its national interests, therefore, if Washington puts pressure on Beijing or offers the Chinese greater benefits in the form of a deal, it is likely that China would give up oil imports from Iran. Therefore, the ruling system must seriously revise its oil policy so that a change in foreign policy developments or equations in the international system cannot easily affect our oil income.

Arman-e-Melli: Cairo Agreement in an ambiguous situation

In a commentary, Arman-e-Melli addressed the ambiguity of the Cairo Agreement and wrote: During the negotiations between our country's Foreign Minister Araghchi and Grossi, hosted by Egypt, the sides reached the Cairo Agreement for resuming cooperation. After the Cairo Agreement, Araghchi said this agreement was intended to prevent the activation of snapback, and if the Europeans do not take into account this goodwill by Iran, the Cairo Agreement with the Agency will practically lose its meaning. However, we witnessed that the Europeans, despite Iran's goodwill, continued their own course and moved towards activating snapback sanctions since they did not have permission from their "older brother", the United States. It seems that in such a situation, where the West is making exaggerated claims instead of constructive approaches, and Iran, in turn, is saying that the agreement with the Agency is ineffective, the only way to change the conditions is to resume negotiations, and there is no other way. The Europeans themselves are also aware that no amount of pressure on Iran will be effective, and ultimately, they must sit down at the negotiating table with Iran.

the first meetings between Egypt and Qatar, and Egypt and Iran, demonstrating Iraq's emerging role as a regional mediator.

The minister emphasized the long-standing and multidimensional ties between Tehran and Baghdad, saying both countries share "long borders and strong social, cultural, religious, and economic connections."

He described Iran as a strategic neighbor whose stability is essential for Iraq's own security and growth.

The ties between the two neighbors are expanding. In March 2023, Iran and Iraq signed a security agreement in Baghdad, encompassing coordination in protecting the shared border.

Iran is also the leading supplier of natural gas to Iraq, accounting for as much as 45 percent of the country's daily electricity consumption of 14,000 megawatts.

UAE, EU anger Iran yet again with renewed claims to historic Persian islands

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson has categorically rejected interventionist and unfounded allegations in a joint statement issued at a foreign ministerial meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union.

Esmail Baghaei noted the allegations, particularly the reshuffle of claims by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the three Iranian islands of the Greater and Lesser Tunbs as well as Abu Musa, amount to unwarranted interference in Iran's defense matters and the country's nuclear issue.

He warned against any destructive and divisive meddling by some European countries in the Persian Gulf affairs.

The spokesperson put strong emphasis on Iran's undisputed and eternal sovereignty over the three islands, describing them as an integral part of Iran's territory.

He reiterated the repetition of groundless claims in politically-motivated statements is legally void and will not change geographical realities and historical facts.

Baghaei condemned acts of sedition by certain members of the European Union, namely Germany and France, which not only offer unflinching support to the genocidal Israeli regime as the sole possessor of atomic arms in the region, but also impose their desires and political objectives on the entire European Union.

He said the European Union's



The 29th Joint Ministerial Meeting between the GCC and the EU repeated UAE's claims to islands that belonged to Iran centuries before the Arab state even existed

unwarranted interference in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman's affairs will not help settle the continent's domestic problems and conflicts, but only shows their hypocritical and divisive policy vis-à-vis Iran and the entire Persian Gulf.

Baghaei further denounced claims in the statement over Iran's defense capabilities as unacceptable interference in issues pertinent to Iran's national sovereignty. "Parties which, on the one hand, turn our region into a large arsenal of advanced destructive weapons, and, on the other hand, have exposed the Wes Asia region to endless wars due to their inaction toward the domineering attitude of a genocidal and aggressor regime

or their all-out military and political support for the regime," the spokesperson explained.

In what's being described as a "shameful" statement in Iranian circles, the GCC and EU flagrantly called on Iran to end what they called the "occupation" of the three Iranian islands, resume cooperation with the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and halt the proliferation of ballistic missiles and drones, the country's most important defense assets against Western aggression and terrorism.

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated

by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands.

The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

The UAE has, in numerous occasions, laid claim on the three islands. However, Iran has rejected the UAE's claims of sovereignty over the three islands outright, reiterating Tehran's ownership of the islands.

Terrorists kill two servicemen in western Iran, IRGC vows reprisal coming

TEHRAN – Two servicemen of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) were martyred and three others wounded in a terrorist attack on Monday night targeting an IRGC operational base in the western province of Kordestan.

According to the Public Information Office of the IRGC's Kordestan Division, the assailant attacked the base using a hand grenade in the county of Sarvabad, located in the southwestern part of the province.

The fallen servicemen were identified as Alireza Valizadeh, a cleric, and Ayyoub Shiri, a member of the Basij volunteer forces stationed at the outpost. The injured personnel were transferred to a local hospital for treatment.

In a statement released following the incident, the Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base of the IRGC Ground Forces expressed condolences to the families and comrades of the martyrs, stressing that the perpetrators of the attack would face a firm response.

"This act of hostility will not go unanswered," the statement read. "The self-sold and mercenary elements of counterrevolutionary

groups behind this cowardly assault will receive a decisive response from our forces."

The statement, issued on Tuesday, also noted that the attack occurred at dusk on Monday, when armed terrorists launched an assault on one of the IRGC's operational posts in Sarvabad County. It added that the two servicemen stationed there were martyred during the exchange.

Terrorist incidents in border provinces are linked to foreign spy agencies seeking to destabilize the country

The IRGC's Kordestan Division condemned the "merciless terrorists" responsible for the attack, describing them as agents of "global arrogance," a term often used by Iranian officials to refer to the United States and its allies.

Expressing "deep sorrow and grief," the Corps praised the martyrs' dedication and

sacrifice, saying their courage had played a vital role in maintaining the "exemplary security" prevailing across the country.

"The martyrdom and wounding of these valiant IRGC members is further proof of this truth," the statement added, offering condolences to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the victims' families, and the Iranian nation.

These terrorist incidents — particularly in border provinces like Kordestan and Sistan and Baluchestan — are linked to foreign intelligence agencies seeking to destabilize the country.

The latest assault comes weeks after Iranian security forces killed at least eight terrorists in southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province who were involved in an earlier attack that left five law enforcement officers dead in the Daman District of Iranshahr County.

The IRGC reaffirmed its commitment to continue defending national security, warning that any aggression against Iran's people and borders will be met with swift and decisive retaliation.

Situation in West Asia extremely grave due to West's meddling, Iran UN envoy warns

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations has described the situation in West Asia as "extremely grave," which, he says, is the result of interventionist policies and militarism by certain extraregional countries, perpetual armed conflicts and the Israeli regime's genocide.

Amirsaeed Iravani noted such illegal moves would get worse through the imposition of unilateral coercive measures.

"Such actions are in violation of basic human rights, including the right to development, disrupts trade, financial support and legitimate investment and undercut the equality of governments' sovereignty," the diplomat added in a UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

"Such moves also intensify the destruction of the environment and poses serious danger to the lives and health of harmed populations, especially, children, women, the elderly and people with special medical conditions," the Iranian UN envoy said.

Iravani said such a situation will constantly hold back the development of the region and intensify challenges facing it day by day. He also touched upon the military aggression by the Israeli regime and the United States against Iran.

"On June 13, 2025, the Israeli regime backed by the U.S. launched large-scale military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran ensued by illegal [U.S.] attacks against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities on June 22," he said.

"These strikes were a blatant violation of the UN Charter, international law and humanitarian international law," Iravani explained.

"In these attacks, civilians, hospitals, media outlets and vital infrastructure were deliberately targeted, which undermined international peace and security and poses a serious threat to the Non-Proliferation Treaty," Iravani underlined.

"Such illegal moves not only amount to flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter, but also exposes human health, ecosystems and vital resources to the danger of release of radioactive and poisonous materials whose perils transcend borders," he said.

"Such moves destroy trust, undercuts cooperations and causes the international community to deviate from its common responsibility of protecting the current and future generations alike. Hence, in is necessary that such moves stop and be categorically condemned, so that global efforts to counter environmental challenges will continue non-stop," he explained.

"Unilateralism is threatening the world and undermining the foundation of peace, stability and development," noted Iravani.

The West has turned a blind eye to Israeli atrocities for years, continuing their political and financial support for the Tel Aviv regime. Western states have also cracked down on dissent to silence people's voices.

Fool me once

Americans grill Netanyahu on social media after he suggests Iran could attack Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Recent remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggesting that Tehran is preparing to attack U.S. soil has alarmed American citizens — though probably not for the reasons the Israeli leader had hoped for.

Netanyahu told a well-known American Zionist during an interview published Monday that Iran can “blackmail” any American city. “Iran is developing intercontinental ballistic missiles for 8,000 km range,” he told Ben Shapiro. “Add another 3,000 km and they’ve got New York City, Washington, Boston, Miami — even Mar-a-Lago — under their atomic guns. That’s a really big danger.”

Shapiro was one of the conservative influencers who fully backed Israel’s 12-day war against Iran in June. Sources told the Tehran Times that Israel relied on American intelligence and assets from day one. Netanyahu eventually persuaded Washington to directly intervene and strike Iranian nuclear sites in the final days of the war in an effort to bail Israel out of the devastation wrought in the occupied territories by Iranian missile salvos, sources add.

The Trump administration’s backing of Israel’s war against Iran, however, was harshly criticized by many influential republican figures and strategists. Steve Bannon, the former Trump chief strategist who now



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) speaks to an American influencer known to be a staunch supporter of Zionism

hosts the MAGA podcast War Room, was at the forefront of a growing rift within the MAGA coalition over Washington’s involvement in the war. Netanyahu’s recent remarks also drew a reaction from him. “They (Israelis) trumped up bull-face lies about the Persians,” he said in a recent episode of his podcast. “They don’t care if they suck the United States into a 20 or 30-year war.” Bannon added that if Israel wants to go to war with Iran, it should do it on its own.

American citizens who reacted to Netanyahu’s recent interview on social media were of the same mind as Bannon. Many shared videos of Netanyahu’s 2002 testimony to the U.S. Congress, in which he told lawmakers that an invasion of Iraq would have “enormous positive reverberations in the region.” He also

said that if Washington toppled Saddam, it would pave the way for a future overthrow of the Iranian government.

“How many more times are we going to get fooled by Netanyahu,” asked one U.S. citizen on X. “He made us go to war with Iraq for weapons of mass destruction that didn’t exist. America lost thousands of its soldiers and \$2 trillion to make this killer happy.”

In his remarks to Shapiro, Netanyahu offered no evidence that Iran is increasing the range of its missiles or planning to attack U.S. cities. Nor did he present evidence when he defended Israel’s strikes on the country back in June, claiming they were carried out to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, which he said it was very “close” to producing. The Director-general of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, recently stated there was never any evidence Tehran intended to build nuclear weapons, and that his reports have never suggested otherwise.

As Netanyahu’s interview continues to draw backlash, it appears that American jitters have not really extended to Iran. An analyst of American affairs told the Tehran Times that Iranians never believed the war with Israel and the U.S. ended after the ceasefire on June 25.

“Here in Iran the consensus is that another war is very likely. The lies Netanyahu comes up with to justify a new confrontation do not really matter,” said Amir-Ali Abolfath, adding that the goals Israel and the U.S. set for themselves were not achieved during the 12-day war.

The expert identified three main goals: dismantling Iran’s nuclear and missile programs, creating public unrest, and forcing Iran to abandon its support for Resistance groups. “Given Washington’s current domestic challenges and its feuds with Russia and China, a second attack on Iran does not seem logical now, but it certainly did not the first time either,” he explained. “Whether Americans wrongly believe they can achieve their goals this time or find themselves unable to resist pressure from Israel, a new attack on Iran remains very likely, even if it serves no U.S. interests.”

Iran and Pakistan discuss latest developments in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad-Reza Bahrami have discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

“Had a great meeting with Muhammad Reza Bahrami, my Iranian counterpart, in Moscow ahead of Moscow Format consultations on Afghanistan starting tomorrow,” Sadiq wrote on his X account on Monday.

“We held in-depth discussions on the latest developments in Afghanistan and exchanged views on shared concerns, particularly the persistent threat of terrorism,” he added.

He noted that both sides emphasized the importance of continued dialog and coordination to address common challenges.

“We also explored avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation and enhancing regional

engagement to support stability and security,” he said.

The 7th meeting of the Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan will be held with the participation of the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday.

Promoting national reconciliation in Afghanistan and expanding practical cooperation between regional countries and Kabul in the political, economic, counter-terrorism, and narcotics fields will be on the agenda of the meeting. The event is the first such meeting since Russia’s move to recognize the Taliban with participants set to issue a joint statement.

Earlier on July 4, 2025, Russia accepted the credentials of the new Afghan ambassador to Moscow, thus becoming the first country to recognize the Taliban government.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign



Iranian and Pakistani diplomats discuss the situation in Afghanistan ahead of a summit in Russia

Minister Abbas Araghchi met, in Tehran on Sunday, with the acting head of the Iranian Embassy in Afghanistan, Alireza Bikkdeli, to discuss the latest developments in the neighboring country.

During the meeting, the Iranian envoy presented a report on steps taken to follow up on issues of mutual interest, particularly in economic, cultural, and

consular areas.

Both sides exchanged views on the latest status of bilateral relations between Iran and Afghanistan, as well as the embassy’s programs in this regard.

This comes as Iran and Pakistan have both returned a considerable number to Afghan immigrants to their country.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

PGPL suffers from low quality and draw overload

TEHRAN – The 2025 season of the Iran’s Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) has exposed serious concerns about the quality and competitiveness of top-flight football in the country.

After six weeks and 48 matches played, the league has been marred by an unprecedented number of draws and a strikingly low goal tally, raising alarms about the overall standard of play.

Nearly half of the matches, 24 out of 48, have ended in draws, a statistic rarely seen in professional leagues worldwide. Even more telling, 21 of these draws concluded with either goalless or 1-1 scorelines, highlighting an excessive tendency toward cautious, defensive football.

This cautious approach is reflected in the standings: the difference between the league leader, Tractor, and the 13th-placed team, Foolad Khuzestan, is a mere three points. Such a narrow gap illustrates the league’s unpredictability, but more worryingly, it underlines the lack of consistent quality and dominance expected from top teams. Foolad, sitting near the bottom, could leap to the summit with a single win, an outcome almost unthinkable in stronger leagues.

Among the usual powerhouses, both Persepolis and Esteghlal have struggled to find form. Persepolis, now under coach Vahid Hashemian, stand sixth with just eight points, having scored a mere four goals in six matches. Esteghlal, with seven points from six games, have scored eight goals but remains well short of the expected level of dominance. Both clubs have been unable to capitalize on their considerable financial investments and squad depth, reflecting deeper issues in tactics and motivation.

Contributing factors to this low quality extend beyond player performance. Poor pitch conditions, especially at stadiums replacing the iconic Azadi, inconsistent refereeing despite VAR implementation, and frequent tactical shifts have disrupted the flow and excitement of matches. Moreover, the heavy focus on results rather than entertaining football, combined with some players prioritizing lucrative contracts over performance, has left fans disillusioned.

Unless fundamental changes occur, improved management, better infrastructure, and a renewed focus on quality rather than financial gains, this downward spiral in the Iranian Persian Gulf Pro League is likely to continue, risking further loss of fan trust and the development of Iranian football.

Iran to compete at Cairo 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Iran has sent 16 men’s and women’s powerlifters to the Cairo 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships

The competition begins on Thursday, 9 October, at 09:30am (local time), with eight bodyweight categories kicking off the event.

The second day promises to be even busier, starting at 09:00am, and featuring 11 different categories.

The historic Cairo 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships are now just two days away, and anticipation is building fast.

The 11th edition of the World Championships marks a major milestone — the first time the event will take place in Africa, and the first to host the Rookie & Next Gen competition across two full days.

Compared to the Dubai 2023 Rookie & Next Gen World Championships, Cairo 2025 will witness a remarkable 107 per cent increase in athlete participation. The number has soared from 58 competitors in 2023 to 120 this year — a clear sign of the sport’s rapid growth.

In total, 36 female athletes and 84 male athletes will take to the stage in Cairo, all chasing medals and international recognition.

Uzbekistan leads the entries with 26 ath-

letes, followed by Egypt with 21, while Armenia and Iran share third place with eight athletes each. Uzbekistan also boasts the highest number of both male and female competitors (15 and 11 respectively), while Egypt matches the Asian powerhouse in male representation with 15 lifters.

Cannavaro takes charge of Uzbekistan football team

TEHRAN – Former Italy FIFA World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro has been named as the new head coach of Uzbekistan on Monday.

It is the second time that the 2006 Ballon d’Or winner has taken charge of a national team, having coached China for two matches in early 2019 before stepping down.

“The Uzbekistan Football Association has signed a contract with Fabio Cannavaro — a renowned specialist, one of the best defenders of his generation, a four-time World Cup participant, and the winner of the 2006 FIFA World Cup,” the Uzbekistan Football Association said in an Instagram post also shared on Cannavaro’s official account.

“The Italian coach will lead our national team in preparation for the upcoming World Cup, which will take place in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.”

Uzbekistan have qualified for the FIFA World Cup for the first time.

Cannavaro made his name as a rugged center-back first with Parma and then Juventus.

He moved on to Real Madrid where he won La Liga twice and then returned to Juventus for a season before ending his career in Dubai.

As a coach, he has been in charge of teams in China PR, Saudi Arabia and Croatia, as well as his homeland.

His most successful experience was winning the Chinese Super League with Guangzhou Evergrande in 2019.

Iran’s NOC President meets World Rowing chief

TEHRAN – Mahmoud Khosravai Vafa, President of Iran’s National Olympic Committee (NOC), held a meeting with Jean-Christophe Rolland, head of the World Rowing Federation, in Lausanne, Switzerland on Tuesday.

Accompanied by NOC General Secretary Mehdi Alinejhad, Khosravi Vafa said that rowing in Iran has long been part of the National Federation of Aquatics, but recently, under the leadership of Mohsen Shadi—one of Iran’s rowing champions—the sport has begun functioning as its own federation.

Rolland also spoke about his friendly relationship with Ahmad Donyamali, Minister of Sports, stating that the move toward autonomy for rowing and its transformation into a federation was the correct decision, and that the next steps after elections should align the federation’s policy with international laws and sovereignty principles.

Iran futsal legend Heydarian named Esteghlal coach

TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Heydarian has been named the new head coach of Esteghlal’s futsal team.

Esteghlal’s futsal squad are set to compete in the 2025–26 Iran Futsal League.

As a player, Heydarian represented Esteghlal, Ceccano, Qatar, Elmo Adab, and Persepolis, and he served as the captain of the Iran national futsal team.

He has also worked as an assistant coach for the Iran national futsal team.

Heydarian is regarded as one of the most decorated Iranian futsal players, having won the AFC Futsal Championship nine times.

Operation Pahlavi: Israeli influence engineering and the defense of Iranian sovereignty

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The modern history of Iran over the past century can largely be read as a narrative of unceasing struggle for national dignity in the face of foreign domination and attempts at fragmentation.

Today, the reemergence of Reza Pahlavi, son of Iran’s disposed Shah, as a supposed “alternative” promoted from abroad—particularly by Israel—marks a new episode of interference that must be rigorously interpreted, taking into account the risks it poses to Iran’s sovereignty and internal cohesion.

The waning popularity of monarchist nostalgia inside Iran contrasts sharply with the sustained efforts abroad to artificially amplify Reza Pahlavi’s figure. This is not simply a matter of sentimental longing, but rather a carefully designed political and media operation orchestrated by foreign influence agencies that see, in the collapse of the global neoliberal consensus, a window of opportunity to subcontract Iran’s geopolitical future.

Digital campaigns, the proliferation of fake avatars on social networks, and the use of artificial intelligence to craft seductive narratives about a “monarchic restoration” now represent the new face of destabilization engineering.

Reza Pahlavi’s official visit to Israel in

2023 must be understood as a calculated move within the logic of hybrid warfare, where public perception itself becomes a key battleground. The construction of political fictions through digital platforms—using structured disinformation networks and locally recruited executors—follows the logic of eroding the institutional and civic legitimacy of the Islamic Republic, while planting the idea that only a monarchic and pro-Western restoration could “save” Iran.

The colonial archetype in the media opposition

In contrast to the rootedness of the Islamic Republic and its resilience against fragmentation, the operation built around Pahlavi bets on media spectacle and the creation of virtual scenarios of social mobilization. The projection of “democratizing movements”—nonexistent in practice—allows external actors to justify future interventions, whether economic, technological, or ultimately military.

The sophistication of digital campaigns has reached unprecedented levels through the systematic use of fake accounts, AI-generated manipulated videos (“deepfakes”), and massive viralization dynamics of messages aligned with Israeli interests. These strategies not only seek to generate internal disaffection but also to shape international perceptions of Iran—projecting the image of

a nation without its own project, in need of foreign tutelage, and therefore “suitably restorable” under a puppet figure.

The most glaring paradox of this phenomenon lies in the total disconnection between Reza Pahlavi and the aspirations of the Iranian population. There is no significant social base for monarchism inside Iran; the national historical memory associates the Pahlavi name with repression, torture, corruption, and loss of sovereignty. What foreign designers see as a virtue—Pahlavi’s full embrace of the Western agenda—is understood inside Iran as betrayal, as clear proof of his lack of any autonomous national project.

The Israeli plan, far from seeking genuine democratization, aims at Iran’s structural fragmentation and vulnerability so that the country is rendered incapable of acting as an independent regional player. In this light, the potential restoration of monarchy is nothing more than an instrumental means to subordinate national politics to the dictates “of those who yesterday bombed the cities and today offer exiled kings.” It is an insult to Iran’s historical intelligence to assume that, after the sacrifices of revolution and war, the people would resign themselves to returning to a formula that serves only foreign interests.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

South Korean ambassador hails Markazi Province as industrial hub, eyeing deeper co-op

TEHRAN – The South Korean Ambassador to Iran Kim Junpyo has praised Markazi Province's industrial capacity, saying it has become a highly attractive destination for investment with over 3,000 manufacturing units already established there.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the province's governor, noting that the diversity of industries in Markazi (in central Iran) is greater than in many other regions of Iran.

Kim said his current visit aims in part to inspect the International Stone Exhibition and to explore new avenues of cooperation between South Korea and Markazi, particularly in areas of industrial development and reconstruction.

The ambassador, drawing attention to cultural and historical ties between Iran and

South Korea, emphasized that this familiarity could help bolster cooperation in sectors like human resources, training, and technology transfer.

He acknowledged that international sanctions have posed obstacles to economic collaborations but reiterated interest in strengthening educational and industrial linkages.

Officials from the province welcomed Kim's proposals and confirmed that future visits involving South Korean economic and trade actors are planned.

These visits will aim to map out operational, actionable partnerships particularly in urban development, manufacturing, and reconstruction.

Daily output of small-scale power plants surpasses 1,600 MW

TEHRAN – Iran's small-scale power plants have increased their total daily electricity generation capacity to over 1,600 megawatts, according to the Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Company (Tavanir).

Abolfazl Asadi, Tavanir's deputy for planning and economic affairs, said the expansion of distributed generation systems has become a key element of the country's electricity policy in recent years.

"These small-scale power plants, often

located close to consumption centers, have significantly improved supply reliability and reduced transmission losses by as much as 12 percent," he said.

Asadi noted that small-scale combined heat and power (CHP) plants and other distributed units help maintain base-load generation and continuous 24-hour electricity supply, complementing solar plants that operate during daylight hours. "The efficiency of these hybrid systems can reach up to 70 percent," he added.

Iran, Astrakhan expand cooperation in industry, energy, logistics

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia's Astrakhan region are strengthening cooperation in trade, industry, energy and logistics as part of efforts to enhance connectivity along the International North–South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Iran's Consul General in Astrakhan said.

During a meeting with the region's deputy governor and minister of industry, Ahmad Heidarian, Iran's consul general in Astrakhan, emphasized the strategic importance of deepening economic and industrial ties and reinforcing maritime transport routes between the two sides.

The Russian officials described trade growth with Iran as "remarkable and upward" and announced Astrakhan's readiness to allocate land in its special economic zones for Iranian companies to establish economic bases.

They also voiced support for projects led by Iran's Mostazafan Foundation and welcomed the creation of an Iranian export terminal in the port of Olya.

The talks also addressed cooperation in shipbuilding, offshore farming, and joint investments, with both sides stressing support for investors and continued engagement to streamline procedures.

Heidarian underlined Astrakhan's strategic role as "Iran's gateway to Russia" and called for easing navigation restrictions along the Volga River, accelerating industrial and energy cooperation, and helping establish a direct Rasht–Astrakhan flight to facilitate business and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides agreed to pursue follow-up actions in logistics, agriculture, oil and gas, and marine industries.

Iran's participation in Caspian energy forum

Heidarian also attended the 3rd International Youth Oil and Gas Forum, titled "Caspian Sea – the Sea of Success," held at Astrakhan State Technical University.

The event attracted regional officials, academics and energy professionals.

In meetings with executives from Lukoil, scholars and energy experts, Heidarian highlighted the Caspian Sea's critical role in global and regional energy security and called for expanded Iran–Russia cooperation in research, new technologies and oil and gas industrial projects.

He said such collaborations could serve

as a foundation for broader partnerships in scientific, industrial and economic fields. Following the event, Heidarian joined Astrakhan's deputy governor, Kazakhstan's consul general and other foreign guests in visiting an exhibition showcasing Russia's latest oil and gas technologies and university research achievements.

Heidarian also met the governor of Astrakhan in early September, to discuss trade, transport, and cultural cooperation.

The governor welcomed the new Iranian envoy, calling Iran a "reliable and strategic partner." He said more than 70 Iran-backed companies are active in Astrakhan, including a branch of Mir Business Bank. Trade between Iran and Astrakhan has been growing, with cooperation expanding under the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

He noted that cargo traffic through Astrakhan's ports rose 37 percent to 6.0 million tons last year, with a significant share linked to Iran. The province's ports have a total capacity of 16 million tons, including Salanika Port, in which Iran holds a major stake. He also highlighted the activities of Iran's Roza company in the Lotus special economic zone, and called for greater Iranian participation in developing container and cold-storage terminals. Cooperation with Iran's Mostazafan Foundation was described as positive, with the governor urging further engagement.

The governor underlined Astrakhan's ties with Iran's Gilan and Mazandaran provinces, as well as with Rasht municipality. He added that Iranian universities are members of the Caspian Universities Association, and Persian is taught at Astrakhan State University and its School of Linguistics.

Astrakhan is a historic city in Southern Russia and the administrative center of Astrakhan Oblast. It is strategically situated on the Volga River, close to where it empties into the Caspian Sea. This unique location has earned it the nickname "The Caspian Capital" and has defined its role as a crucial gateway between Europe and Asia for centuries.

The economy of Astrakhan is heavily influenced by its geographic position, its natural resources, and its transport infrastructure.

Transportation and Logistics: It is the cornerstone of Astrakhan's economy.

Iran announces major gas, oil discovery at Pazan field

TEHRAN – Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad announced a significant hydrocarbon discovery at the Pazan field, located in southern Fars Province, that could add an estimated 10 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas to the country's reserves.

The find follows an eight-year dormancy in exploration at that field, he said.

The Pazan field lies about 21 kilometers from Jam in Bushehr Province. Based on exploratory drilling of a second well, tests confirmed substantial gas volumes.

If a 70 percent recovery rate is applied, some seven Tcf of gas could eventually be extracted—equivalent to roughly 17 to



18 years of output from a single phase of the South Pars field. (On the basis of this estimate, the discovery holds considerable strategic weight.)

Paknejad said a development contract has already been

awarded. He expects production to begin in about 40 months. He also noted that, for the first time, exploration operations have branched into horizontal drilling in the field, revealing that the reservoir also contains around

200 million barrels of crude oil. The preliminary data suggest that with further study, those oil volumes may be revised upward.

Strategic implications and sector context

Iran already ranks among the world's top holders of natural gas reserves, and the Pazan discovery adds further scale to its portfolio.

Despite this, the country struggles with gas supply imbalances, especially during peak winter demand, and faces flaring and efficiency challenges.

The 40-month timeline places first gas production in late 2028 or early 2029—providing a medium-term boost to Iran's capacity to address domestic shortages.

Iranian trade delegation to attend 7th Oman AgroFood Exhibition



TEHRAN- The head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said that a delegation of 50 Iranian businessmen and traders will be dispatched to the 7th edition of the Oman AgroFood Industries Exhibition.

Jamal Rezaqi Jahromi said: "The AgroFood Oman 2025 International Exhibition, as the largest specialized event in the fields of agriculture, food industries, livestock, fisheries, and related technologies in Oman, will be held from December 1 to 3, 2025 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat."

He added: "The exhibition is experiencing its seventh edition this year and is being held with the support of Oman's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and with the participation of companies, trade delegations, producers, and businessmen from various countries."

Rezaqi Jahromi stated the primary goals of this event as strengthening food security, developing the supply chain in the agriculture and food industries sector, and creating a platform for interaction between regional and international business actors. He said: "Over the past years, the AgroFood Oman exhibition has become a reputable venue for showcasing achievements, exchanging experiences, discovering investment opportunities, and establishing joint cooperation among different countries."

The head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce further added: "The participation of Iranian delegations and companies in recent editions of this exhibition also indicates the high capacity of this event for developing economic relations and expanding our country's export markets."

This event aims to unite government decision-makers, international stakeholders, regional buyers, traders, and innovative technology providers to actualize the Sultanate's ambitious vision for transformative advancements and sustainable growth, specifically in the agriculture, food, and fisheries industries.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$591 million to Oman during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).

Foroud Asgari said that Oman was Iran's seventh top non-oil export destination in the four-month period.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has proposed the creation of a joint investment fund between Iran and Oman to support industrial projects, as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral trade and private-sector collaboration.

During a meeting in Muscat, in late May, with Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh welcomed the growth in bilateral trade, which has surpassed \$2.0 billion. He emphasized that the trade volume could potentially reach between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, given the countries' untapped economic potential.

Hassanzadeh stressed the need for a clear financial framework to facilitate transactions between private enterprises in both countries. He proposed the establishment of licensed exchange houses under central bank supervision and the implementation of a barter mechanism to ease payment challenges.

The Iran Chamber head also advocated for re-exporting Iranian goods to African and East Asian markets through Oman; cooperation in supplying key industrial inputs to Iran; joint ventures in petrochemicals, hospitality, power generation, fisheries, and agriculture.

He further called for the formation of an industrial and investment committee involving the industry ministries and chambers of commerce from both countries. The aim would be to evaluate and coordinate development projects, particularly those utilizing Iran's tech-savvy startups and industrial base.

Hassanzadeh also proposed joint investment in the International North–South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to enhance rail and road connectivity with Central Asia and Europe, as well as the Makran coast, specifically Jask and Chabahar ports, as strategic logistics hubs providing access to the Caucasus and Eurasian markets.

The visit was part of an Iranian business delegation mission to Oman, seeking to capitalize on growing economic ties and the imminent activation of the first interbank transfer mechanism between the two countries.

Also, during an Iran-Oman Business Forum in Muscat on Wednesday (May 28), Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the value of trade between Iran and Oman can reach \$20 billion–\$30 billion.

Emphasizing the position of Iran and Oman in connecting regional markets, the president said: "We can jointly establish strategic ties with important markets in the region and the world by using our geopolitical capacity."

Referring to his talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq the previous day and the agreements reached in these talks, the president stated: "What is most important today is to create infrastructure to strengthen the connection of land, sea and air routes between the two countries, because only in such a context can commercial, scientific, industrial and economic cooperation be deepened."

Iran and Oman discussed ways to boost banking ties during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

According to Oman's state news agency, Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef held talks on May 27 with Mohammadreza Farzin in Muscat. The meeting took place as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Oman aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and financial relations.

The two sides reviewed measures to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, ease financial transactions, and streamline trade procedures between the two countries. Discussions also focused on initiatives to support joint economic projects, stimulate bilateral trade, and facilitate private sector exchanges.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, with a shared goal of strengthening bilateral relations and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The official visit to Oman marks a significant step in the Iranian government's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties and deepen bilateral relations with Muscat.

Meanwhile, the ICCIMA head, who had traveled to Muscat at the head of a trade delegation at that time, attended a conference to review trade opportunities between Iran and Oman and presented seven proposals to deepen Iran-Oman relations in the economic field. He believed that moving towards defining joint investment projects is a suitable solution in this direction.

Addressing the conference, Samad Hasanzadeh said that the presence of entrepreneurs from Iran and Oman in this valuable conference indicates the serious interest of the private sectors of the two countries in comprehensively deepening relations and promoting bilateral economic cooperation.

Hassanzadeh stated that expanding economic relations with neighboring countries is Iran's strategic priority, adding: "Iran's private sector is very keen to cooperate with Omani companies. Given the wide variety of cooperation capacities between the two countries, it is necessary to focus on the future of relations so that, by optimally utilizing new opportunities, a suitable roadmap for joint relations and cooperation that includes the interests of both parties can be defined and drawn."

He considered the cultural and historical commonalities, good neighborliness, and excellent political relations in the region as important capacities for deepening economic relations, adding: "In recent years, the value of trade between the two countries has exceeded \$2 billion, and there is a clear prospect of increasing this figure to a much higher level."

Iran and Oman signed 18 memoranda of understanding in various fields during the official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Muscat.

The agreements, signed on the sidelines of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting on May 27, aim to deepen ties in multiple sectors, including legal, economic, political, cultural, educational, health, defense, media, technology, energy, and mining.

In a symbolic gesture highlighting cultural and historical bonds, officials from both nations also unveiled a commemorative joint postage stamp.

President Pezeshkian arrived in Muscat on May 27 at the official invitation of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

Following a formal welcoming ceremony at Muscat International Airport, Pezeshkian held a meeting with Oman's Sultan. The visit continued with a joint session between high-ranking delegations from both countries.

During the meeting, Pezeshkian said that Iran is ready to boost cooperation with Oman in all fields, adding that the two countries possess capabilities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of the two nations as well as that of other regional nations.

"We are ready to do whatever is within our capability for the dignity and greatness of Muslims. Each of us has capacities that can be employed for the well-being and progress of one another and of other nations in the region," Pezeshkian said.

Sultan Haitham also welcomed closer ties, saying that he agrees that if the avenues for business activities are opened, the two countries "will witness a significant leap in the bilateral relations."

"The relations between Iranian and Omani ports must be developed, and the rail capacity from northern to southern Iran is of great commercial importance to us," he said, adding that more support is needed for cooperation in the energy sector.

‘Unprecedented Arab abandonment:’ What Hamas means, and why Gaza calls it betrayal

From page 1 ► Instead, normalization deals, large-scale trade partnerships, and security alignments have rewired incentives.

Economic ties between Israel and its Arab partners have grown into an axis of practical cooperation that makes punitive diplomacy costly for those states — even as public outrage across the region remains high.

Arab Barometer polling shows support for normalization has collapsed in much of the region; popular anger still exists even if governments act otherwise.

Abandonment is visible in policy choices. In July 2025, the Arab League urged a postwar horizon in which Hamas would disarm, and it would be removed from Gaza’s governance — a declaration criticized in Gaza as sidelining the very people on whose fate the plan turns.

At home, several Arab governments criminalized or cracked down on protests and solidarity actions that once helped build diplomatic pressure; activists and civic groups report detentions and limits on assembly.

Meanwhile, the high-profile Global Sumud Flotilla — composed largely of European activists who braved the seas to deliver aid and register solidarity — was intercepted and blocked, yet its symbolic defiance arguably generated more global pressure than the empty statements issued by Arab states.



The contrast is stark: foreign activists risked Israeli drone strikes and prison cells, while Arab governments repressed their own populations, preventing them from marching, protesting, or even sending humanitarian convoys.

The contrast is even starker when looking at Yemen’s Ansarullah. While Arab governments shared intelligence with the U.S. and Israel to facilitate strikes on Yemen, Ansarullah opened a new front in solidarity with Gaza, targeting Israeli-linked shipping despite enormous risks, and launching missile and drone strikes on Israel.

Even as Israel expanded its aggression on Yemen, killing civilians and officials and laying waste to infrastructure, U.S. bombardments under both Biden and Trump failed to neutralize the group’s capabilities.

Here lies the paradox: a besieged Yemeni movement under constant airstrikes showed greater readiness to act for Gaza than wealthy Arab states, whose leaders confined themselves to hollow condemnations, normalization deals, and repression of their own people’s protests.

Such alignments have coincided with the steady support of Washington, the Arab world’s key ally, which continues to provide Israel with arms, intelligence, and diplomatic cover.

Additionally, the so-called Trump peace plan episode crystallized the political sidelining that Hamas describes.

Senior Hamas figures have said they were not consulted before the White House unveiled a 20-point proposal; reporting showed Israeli leaders shaped key edits and that Hamas was effectively presented

with a sealed deal to accept or reject under pressure.

For Palestinians who prize agency and have not given up even after nearly a century of resisting colonialism and dispossession, the optics were stark: a plan with massive consequences for Gaza’s governance and the resistance’s future was forged around them, not with them.

This is why the anniversary’s refrain about “steadfastness” matters. When peaceful channels, regional leverage, and political inclusion shrink, resistance — political and social — fills the vacuum.

To Palestinians, this is not simply a choice but a necessity born of exclusion. The message of October 7, repeated two years later, is that the struggle continues not because it is easy, but because all other doors have been closed.

And here lies the challenge to the Arab world and the international community. The cost of silence and abandonment is already written into Gaza’s ruins — a graveyard of over 67,000 souls.

Whether regional leaders reclaim the cause or continue trading it away, Palestinians have made clear they will endure — rooted in their land, carrying their martyrs, and keeping their eyes fixed on Al-Aqsa.

Two years on, that unbroken resolve is the truest response to betrayal, and the deepest warning that Palestine’s story is not yet finished.

First round of Gaza talks in Egypt ends on ‘positive’ note

The first round of indirect talks between mediators and Hamas in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, concluded Tuesday and was described by participants as positive, producing a roadmap and mechanisms for the current negotiating cycle.

Hamas told mediators that the continued bombing of Gaza is a major impediment to freeing Israeli captives, officials told Al Jazeera.

The delegation included senior negotiators Khalil al-Hayya and Zaher Jabarin, both of whom survived a deadly Israeli strike in Doha last month.

The talks follow the recent announcement of

President Donald Trump’s 20-point Gaza peace plan, which has introduced a new framework for resolving the conflict.

The plan outlines a phased approach, beginning with a ceasefire and the release of hostages, followed by the establishment of a transitional governance structure in Gaza.

Key elements include the demilitarization of Gaza, the deployment of an international stabilization force, and the creation of a “Board of Peace” to oversee the transition, with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair reportedly among those under consideration for this role.

UNICEF: Israel blocking transfer of incubators in Gaza

Israel has repeatedly denied permission to transfer incubators from an evacuated hospital in northern Gaza, worsening conditions in overcrowded hospitals further south where newborn babies are now sharing oxygen masks, UNICEF said, Al Jazeera repoted.

James Elder, a UNICEF spokesperson, described scenes of extreme overcrowding and exhaustion inside Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, where mothers and babies line corridor floors.

“In one of the pediatric rooms, there were three babies and three mums on a single bed,

one source of oxygen, and the mothers would rotate the oxygen 20 minutes to each child,” he told Reuters news agency. “This is the level of desperation mums have now got to.”

Elder said vital medical equipment remains trapped in hospitals that have been shut in the north.

“We’ve been trying to recover incubators from a hospital that was evacuated in the north, and we’ve had four missions denied simply to get those incubators,” he said, referring to supplies stuck at the damaged by Israel at Al-Rantisi Children’s Hospital in Gaza City.

Resalat suspension: Turning law into a tool to counter cultural resistance

The proposed suspension of Resalat is the result of narrow political calculations



From page 1 ► Minister of Information Paul Morcos claimed that the decision came after extensive discussion based on Legislation and Consultation Commission (1980) that allows revoking an association’s license if it is proven to have been misused in a manner that harms the public interest.

However, Lebanese law does not specifically include the suspension of an association. Dissolution or full annulment may occur only by a final judicial ruling, after an investigation that ensures the association’s right to defend itself.

This makes the government’s action more like a malicious political interpretation than a fair legal decision.

For its part, the Ministry of Interior presented a report containing fabricated accusations against Resalat. The minister claimed the association it has violated bylaws and used public property for purposes that undermine “public order.”

In a statement, Resalat affirmed that it was not seeking to provoke or challenge anyone, and that it had not transformed the Raouche event into a political event, adding that it would pursue the legal process until the end.

The association emphasized that everything happening only increases its determination to pursue its artistic and cultural mission, stating, “Whoever carries a sacred cause like ours will never tire.”

MP Ali Fayyad, a member of Hezbollah’s resistance bloc in the parliament, described what is happening as “a dangerous violation of the constitutional rules.”

Fayyad accused some in power of “deliberately injecting elements of tension and provocation into the domestic arena,” with the aim of inciting division.

Fayyad noted that some officials “behave as if they are more royal than the king in their depen-

dence on foreign powers, and are using the law as a tool to settle scores and appease Western capitals.”

He said this approach, if continued, would transform a large segment of the Lebanese population into “an outcast sect with no rights or future,” warning of serious social and political repercussions.

The session was preceded by intensive meetings between Aoun and Salam, which resulted in this settlement.

Ministerial sources revealed that the decision, in its milder form—suspending the work of the association rather than permanently revoking its license—came after direct intervention from President Aoun, who warned Salam against proceeding with malicious measures that could spark a major political crisis, especially after Hezbollah’s firm warnings against infringing on the rights of its associations.

The government session also included a presentation by Army Commander Rodolphe Heikal on the plan to confiscate weapons in the south, confirming that it is the Israeli occupation army that is obstructing the Lebanese army’s mission, not Hezbollah, as some falsely claim.

In parallel, the government did not comment on the massacre committed by the Israeli enemy, which targeted a civilian car in Nabatieh with two guided missiles, killing a citizen and his wife.

Martyr Hassan Atwi was an engineer who lost his eyesight in the Pager Massacre. His wife, Zeinab Raslan, left her teaching job to care for him and their three children.

Obviously, the proposed suspension of Resalat is the result of narrow political calculations. While the government leaves Israeli attacks unanswered and distances itself from confronting the economic crises and corruption, it chooses to restrict an artistic association simply because it is affiliated with Hezbollah!

Mehr Media Group hosts roundtable on Gaza ceasefire and Palestinian future



From page 1 ►
Opportunities and challenges

Barati analyzed the potential benefits and challenges of the proposed ceasefire. On the positive side, he noted that the plan calls for an end to Israel’s war on Gaza and rejects the forced displacement of Palestinians—a demand supported by far-right Israeli ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Barati also emphasized that, based on the ceasefire plan, Israel should not occupy Gaza and that civil administration would remain in Palestinian hands, potentially fostering greater unity among Palestinian factions.

Barati also highlighted potential challenges, warning that the plan could encourage further normalization between Israel and certain Arab states while pressuring the Palestinian resistance to disarm. He noted that if Hamas releases the remaining Israeli captives, Israel might reduce its commitment to the ceasefire and re-

sume hostilities.

The “kingmaker” dynamic

Barati discussed the political instability within Israel’s government, noting that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces pressure from far-right coalition partners threatening to leave the cabinet. He explained that Netanyahu’s survival could hinge on escalatory policies—such as West Bank annexation, confronting Hezbollah, or further military operations.

Barati further highlighted the “kingmaker” dynamic: should far-right ministers depart, opposition leader Benny Gantz or hardline politicians could determine the balance of power, forcing Netanyahu to make concessions or adjust his strategy. This dynamic underscores the fragility of Israel’s coalition politics and its impact on the continuation of occupation and hostilities.

The Palestinian cause

Bayat emphasized that Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has restored global attention to the Palestinian struggle, countering efforts to marginalize Gaza. He noted that the ceasefire plan, while not perfect, implicitly acknowledges Israel’s failure to impose full control over Gaza and challenges the vision of a “Greater Israel.”

Bayat explained that if implemented earnestly, the plan could improve humanitarian conditions and pave the way for reconstruction. However, he stressed that lasting stability requires an end to the occupation and lifting the block-

ade imposed by Israel for nearly two decades.

U.S. role and international pressure

Hooshmand analyzed the evolving role of the United States. He noted that, while the Trump administration has rejected the two-state solution, growing pressure from Arab states and public opinion has encouraged a ceasefire proposal. Hooshmand also suggested that Trump’s motivations may include personal prestige and potential international accolades, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Hooshmand further highlighted shifting global attitudes, observing that countries such as the UK, France, Canada, and Australia — traditionally aligned with Israel — have recognized Palestinian statehood due to domestic pressure over the Gaza genocide.

The forum concluded that the Palestinian issue remains a central test of justice and international responsibility.

While the ceasefire plan carries both opportunities and challenges, analysts emphasized that any sustainable peace must start with an end to occupation, recognition of Palestinian sovereignty, and respect for the right of return.

They agreed that Operation Al-Aqsa Storm marked a turning point: the Palestinian struggle cannot be silenced, and resistance will continue as long as the occupation persists. The Israeli political landscape, shaped by far-right pressures and the “kingmaker” dynamic described by Barati, will continue to influence the prospects for peace or renewed conflict.

Long standing China-U.S. rivalry

Bagram Air Base’s proximity to China prompted Trump to propose that the base should again be under U.S. control. “One of the reasons we want the base is, as you know, it’s an hour away from where China makes its nuclear weapons,” Trump said last month in London.

China is the Islamic Republic’s largest trading partner and maintains close bilateral ties and mutual understanding on global issues. Reports on Iran’s surging crude imports to China is under close scrutiny by the West.

Despite the two powers’ geopolitical rivalry the end result will be determined by their technological know-how and economic well-being.

This article will focus on the two rivals’ competition in economic and technological fields.

China’s economic prowess

U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration views China’s eco-

nom ic rise and its growing scientific prowess as a threat to the U.S. global hegemony.

As of August 25, China became home to world’s largest foreign exchange reserves totaling U.S. \$3.322 trillion reaching a 10-year high. Japan has the second largest U.S. dollar reserves, followed by the Switzerland and India.

America still remains as the world’s largest economy. When will China surpass the U.S.? Based on projections about growth rates, currencies, etc., pundits reckon that China’s big day will come soon.

The foreign reserve allows Chinese central bank to effectively hold dollar-denominated assets. The most important reason for China’s accumulation of these assets is due to the trade imbalance between the two countries, as China exports more to the U.S. than it imports.

Trump has responded by raising

tariffs by an additional 50 percent beginning April 9, bringing the baseline tariff on Chinese imports to 104 percent. In retaliation Beijing increased baseline tariff on American goods to 84 percent. The U.S. then raised to 145 percent, and on April 11, China raised to 125 percent.

China’s trade surplus with America has soared in the last five years. China now runs, for example, a large trade surplus in autos with six million Chinese vehicles entering the U.S. market this year.

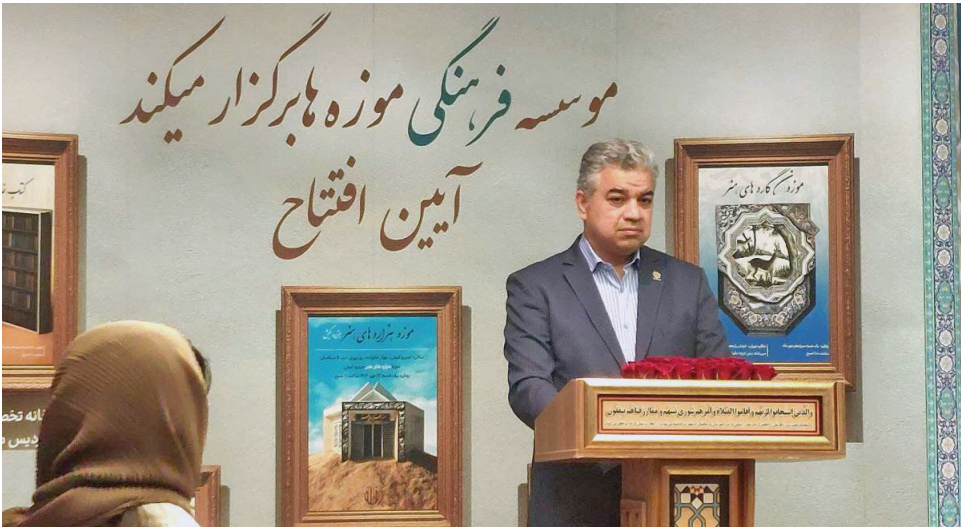
China’s 2024 current account surplus with the U.S. was around \$430 billion.

Technology

Even though today China leads the world in total human resources it still lacks high-talent skilled manpower. In 2023, China spent more than \$780 billion on research and development, compared with roughly \$823 billion in U.S., ac-

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Four museums open under Mostazafan Foundation



TEHRAN— Four new museums have recently been inaugurated under the Mostazafan Foundation's Dafineh Museum Group.

The launch ceremony took place at the Dafineh Museum complex, attended by Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh Museums, alongside cultural enthusiasts and officials.

The new museums, which have become part of the foundation's expanding cultural portfolio, include the "Millennia of Art" Museum in Kish Island, the third phase of the Historical Cars Museum, the "Art Motifs" Museum, and the "Art Ornaments" Museum in Ramsar, complemented by the reopening of the specialized Dafineh Library.

Millennia of Art Museum in Kish

The "Millennia of Art" Museum, located in a historic 900-square-meter building on Kish Island, debuted over 320 priceless artifacts spanning various historical periods and artistic styles—from ancient civilizations to contemporary times—now accessible to the public for the first time.

Museum of Historical Cars

The third phase of the Historical Cars Museum features 75 meticulously restored vintage automobiles. This collection highlights the evolution of the automotive industry both globally and within Iran, attracting significant interest from car enthusiasts and historians alike.

Art Motifs Museum

The "Art Motifs" Museum showcases 78 works, including paintings, ceramics, and exquisite tiles. These pieces offer a unique blend of Iran's visual arts tradition, integrating both classical aesthetics and modern artistic expressions.

Art Ornaments Museum in Ramsar

Located within the Ramsar museum campus, the "Art Ornaments" Museum displays over 200 artifacts of jewelry and decorative objects, dating from approximately 3500 BCE to 500 years ago.

These exhibits illustrate the artistic skills and creativity of Iranian craftsmen throughout the centuries.

Specialized Dafineh Library

Alongside the museums, the Dafineh Library re-

opened with a collection exceeding 7,500 volumes focused on art, history, archaeology, and related fields. The library holds rare and valuable manuscripts dating back 130 years, restored for use by researchers and the public.

Hossein Dehghan, head of the Mostazafan Foundation, officially authorized the launch of these new cultural institutions on Sunday. Since opening, the museums have seen strong public interest, especially at the Ramsar, Classic Cars, and Kish Island locations.

Visitors can enjoy two weeks of free admission, Soleimani said.

Plans for Iran's first digital museum

Soleimani announced plans to establish Iran's first digital museum in partnership with a Tehran-based AI Institute. Designed to offer global access to Iranian cultural heritage, the digital museum will feature two main sections: one showcasing physical museum collections, and another dedicated to new works presented through virtual reality (VR) and 3D technology, providing an immersive virtual museum experience.

Additionally, the first specialized encyclopedia-style catalog of the Millennia of Art Museum's collection will be unveiled next week, with a presentation copy delivered to the foundation's leadership.

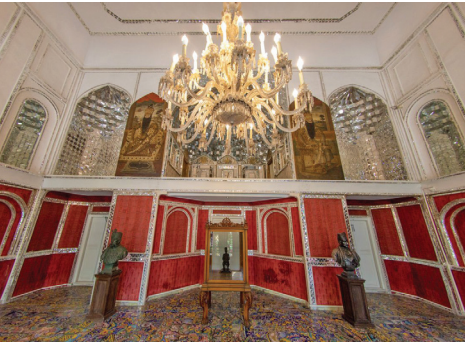
Community participation welcomed

Soleimani emphasized the importance of public involvement in enriching museum collections, citing recent donations of ancient pottery from Yazd residents.

"All contributions undergo authenticity verification and are registered under the donor's name, with owners retaining the right to reclaim their artifacts if desired, following directives from Dr. Dehghan," Soleimani said.

The Mostazafan Foundation, tasked with social services for millions in Iran, manages the Dafineh Museums Group as part of its cultural and heritage preservation efforts. The foundation's mission aligns with its ideological roots focusing on the oppressed (mostazafan) and their empowerment through access to culture and history.

Amir Kabir memorial hall reopens in Golestan Palace



TEHRAN-- The Amir Kabir Memorial Hall in Talar-e Almas (Almas Mansion) of Golestan Palace was reopened with the unveiling of some of the educational documents of the Qajar period, including the academic records of Qajar King Ahmad Shah and a group of students from madrasa of Dar ul-Funun.

According to IRIB, Afarin Emami, director of the Golestan Palace World Heritage site, said that this educational document records the names and grades of Ahmad Shah, the crown prince, and 15 students of Dar ul-Funun school, along with a list of academic subjects, the names of the professors of each subject, and the details of the students' parents.

She added that this historical record, which

is considered one of the unique documents related to the educational system of the Qajar period, is displayed in the courtyard of this historic school along with a picture of Ahmad Shah and his brother alongside the students and professors of the Dar ul-Funun school.

Appreciating the cultural initiative of the Hedayat family, she stated the two historical documents were donated by Alamtaj Hedayat, the daughter of Gholam Ali Khan (grandchild of Mokhber ol-Molk), to the Historical Documents Center of the Golestan Palace World Heritage site and are currently on display to the visitors in the Amir Kabir Hall of the Almas Mansion.

Emami emphasized that the reopening of the Amir Kabir Memorial Hall of the Almas Mansion, which was completed after a period of restoration and preparation, has provided a new opportunity for those interested in the history of Iranian education and culture to closely observe a lesser-known part of the scientific heritage of the Qajar era.

Simultaneously with the opening of the Amir Kabir Hall of the Almas Mansion, the Anthropology Museum in the Abyaz Palace of the Golestan Palace World Heritage Site was also reopened.

Tourism ministry highlights intl. collaboration, domestic restoration efforts

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts held a press meeting on Tuesday to outline recent achievements in cultural preservation, international heritage registration, and domestic restoration projects, emphasizing cooperation with Iranians abroad and neighboring countries.

Regarding the "immense" potential of expatriates, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, stressed the government's commitment to strengthening ties with Iranians living abroad.

"One of President Masoud Pezeshkian's main concerns is enhancing relations with the Iranian diaspora. We have taken significant steps and now aim to utilize their scientific, cultural, and economic capacities," he said.

Salehi-Amiri highlighted the establishment of a Supreme Council for Iranians Abroad, with specialized commissions active, including the ministry's responsibility for tourism and Iranian studies.

"Our approach is paternal, supportive, and trust-building," he added, noting efforts to foster a sense of belonging among Iranians worldwide.

He also announced the formation of a special commission in that regard that seeks to help the younger generation of Iranians abroad reconnect with their heritage through opportunities to experience their homeland's culture.

On the international front, Salehi-Amiri addressed a joint UNESCO file for Masnavi, the poetic work of Rumi. "Turkey initial-



ly claimed priority due to older manuscripts and the location of Rumi's school in Konya," he said. "UNESCO recommended a joint registration, which we agreed to avoid cultural disputes and benefit from shared heritage," Salehi-Amiri added that Afghanistan's inclusion was accepted due to Balkh's importance in Rumi's life, resulting in a trilateral file of the Masnavi as shared cultural heritage.

Regarding domestic restoration, Salehi-Amiri spoke about efforts in Sialk and Dehdasht, historic sites requiring land reallocation for owners and community participation in preservation. "We have negotiated with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to provide compensatory lands and are working with local authorities and residents to complete restoration projects by the end of 2026," he said.

Ali Darabi, the deputy minister for cultural heritage, reported an increase in registered cultural sites and museums. "The number of museums has risen from 725 to 856, reflecting expanded

cultural infrastructure," he said. He also said that currently 29 sites (or collective ones) have been registered in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

"673 immovable heritage sites have been registered domestically, aiming for 950 by the end of the current development plan." Darabi also mentioned ongoing work in defining protective boundaries for historic sites and compensating property owners in coordination with other ministries.

Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpei, the deputy minister for tourism, reported nearly 400 tourism events and festivals held nationwide this year. "We aim to utilize all provinces' capacities, not just major cities like Isfahan and Mashhad," he said. He highlighted new initiatives including soft loans to empower local communities and the designation of three villages as model tourism villages.

Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, the deputy minister for handicrafts, emphasized the role of rural exhibitions and decentralization

policies. He noted ongoing exhibitions and restoration projects, including the reopening of a restored building in Zahedan province as a handicraft site.

She discussed collaboration with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and upcoming national exhibitions in Ardabil, as well as major development projects planned for Isfahan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces.

Cultural advisor Mohammad-Javad Haqshenas spoke on the importance of the Mehregan Celebration, calling it "a great festival inherited from our ancestors, symbolizing gratitude." He noted the festival's growing media visibility and the ministry's efforts to include Mehregan alongside Nowruz in the national cultural calendar. He also announced the formation of a Cultural Council within the ministry to coordinate cultural activities and revive national and religious traditions.

Available data suggests that some 7.3 million foreign tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the past Persian year 1403, which ended on March 20, 2025. As mentioned by, Mohseni-Bandpei, the data is based on internationally recognized definitions of tourism, which classify any individual who stays at least one night in a destination as a traveler, whether Iranian expatriates or foreign nationals.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots, such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 29 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Basra roadshow: necessity of developing tourism and border cooperation between Iran and Iraq

TEHRAN-- Iraq roadshow was held on October 6 with the participation of more than 50 tourism and investment companies from Basra province.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), during the meeting, which was attended by local officials and private activists from both countries, strategies for expanding tourism, maritime transport, and health tourism between Iran and Iraq were discussed.

The program began with a speech by Ali Abedi, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra. Then, Deputy Governor of Basra, Head of the Basra Tourism Department Hussein Al-Rafiei, and Basra lawmaker in Iraqi Parliament expressed their views.

Also, Hani Rastegaran, head of the Iranian delegation participating in the event, spoke

on behalf of Iran.

Hussein Al-Rafiei also spoke as the head of the Tourism Association and a representative of the private sector.

During the meeting, various topics were raised regarding strengthening tourism and economic cooperation between the two countries, including facilitating the entry of Iraqi families from Basra to Iran through land borders, increasing shipping lines between Basra, Abadan, and Kish Island, and developing health tourism through joint cooperation between Iranian and Iraqi hospitals and tourism agencies.

Emphasizing Basra's extensive capacities in the field of tourism, the speakers spoke about the formation of a new and professional approach in this province and expressed

the hope that with the continuation of bilateral cooperation, the volume of tourists between Iran and Iraq will increase significantly in the coming years.

The Basra roadshow is part of a series of joint programs between Iran and Iraq aimed at promoting economic, cultural and tourism interactions between the border provinces of the two countries and has been welcomed by activists in this field.

The Iraqi tourism roadshow, which will run until October 9 in the three cities of Basra, Baghdad and Karbala with the efforts of the Iranian Travel Service Offices Association and the participation of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, has prioritized the goal of attracting five million Iraqi tourists and exchanging 10 million tourists annually between Tehran and Baghdad.

Deputy minister highlights growth in rural tourism and community empowerment

TEHRAN— Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpei has emphasized the growth in Iran's rural tourism aimed to empower local communities and help reverse migration to villages.

Speaking at the media meeting with the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, which was held at Fajr Hall on Tuesday, he said that the slogan of this year's Tourism Week was 'Empowering the Local Communities'. This concept is one of the main principles in materializing the sustainable tourism, he added.

He also said that for the first time, 140 trillion rials (\$140 million) was allocated to support the rural jobs and handicrafts sector, which is considered an important step toward promoting the rural economy and creating sustainable employment.

Mohseni Bandpei added that the creativity of rural youth can be a driving force behind the development of tourism in villages and ultimately pave the way for a return

to the trend of reverse migration.

The deputy minister announced the submission of the registration of three villages, Soheili (Hormozgan province), Kandelous (Mazandaran) and Shafiabad (Kerman), to the World Tourism Organization.

Mohseni Bandpei also announced Iran's active interaction with UNWTO and said: "Information about the villages nominated for world registration under the 'Iranian Model Tourism Villages' project has been uploaded to the organization's system. This measure is an effective step in introducing Iran's rural tourism capacities internationally and strengthening the country's national tourism brand."

He said: "Previously there was neglect in providing information to the World Tourism Organization about the villages. This year we said, 'Check it out, we will provide you with any information you want.' We introduced eight villages. This year, three villages have been selected as model tourism villages,

which is an achievement of the 14th Government. The village registration ceremony will be held in China, and we will also participate online."

Mohseni Bandpei continued that one of the major goals of this ministry is to identify and scientifically introduce tourism potentials in all provinces of the country. Each province of Iran has unique cultural, natural and historical advantages, and efforts are being made to systematically introduce and exploit these potentials, he added.

Referring to the holding of 400 provincial events during the Tourism Week, he said that in addition to strengthening social vitality, these programs have led to a better introduction of local potentials and economic prosperity in different regions of the country.

Pointing to the global importance of responsible tourism and environmental protection, he said: This year, the World Tourism Organization has emphasized 'protecting the planet Earth', and in this regard, the plan to award the green

label to environmentally friendly hotels in the country was implemented. So far, several hotels have succeeded in receiving this label, he added.

On Iran's international interactions in the field of tourism, he said: "Iraq is one of the most important target countries in attracting the foreign tourists. Currently, negotiations are underway with Iraqi authorities so that the travel of tourists from this country is not limited to pilgrimage destinations only and visits to Iran's cultural, historical and natural attractions are also included in their plans."

He finally emphasized that tourism development is not limited to creating infrastructure, but is a cultural, social and economic process that must be pursued by relying on local knowledge, public participation and environmental protection. The mission of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in the new era is to move towards sustainable, popular and world-class tourism, he added.

‘Children, joy of life’: Iran marking National Children’s Week

TEHRAN – National Children’s Week is being observed nationwide from October 7 to 13, with the theme ‘children, joy of life’.

The day highlights the fact that each child has the right to a happy and safe childhood; regardless of their color, race, nationality, religion, and social strata, children have the right to grow in a peaceful environment, ISNA quoted Seyed Javad Hosseini, the head of the Welfare Organization, as saying.

It is an opportunity to remember that children are the assets of society, and we all have the responsibility to provide a safe, loving environment filled with opportunity for them, and to help them experience happiness in their lives, he added.

The official went on to say that paying special attention to children with disabilities, children without effective and competent guardians, child labor and street children, and those covered by the Welfare Organization is not only a human and social responsibility, but also an investment in the future of the country and a



more just society.

Each day of the week is celebrated with a focus on a specific topic.

Tuesday, October 7, ‘Family, the beautiful world of children’, Wednesday October 8, ‘Earth, our home’, Thursday October 9: ‘Life, Play, Health’, Friday October 10: ‘Comets’ (commemorating the memory of the children and adolescents martyred in Iran and Gaza), Saturday October 11, ‘Books, the wonderful world of children’, Sunday October 12: ‘The sweet world of children with special needs’ and

Monday October 13: ‘Children and the modern world of sciences and technologies’.

Upholding children’s rights leads to better world

World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improve children’s welfare.

November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the

Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Since 1990, World Children’s Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals, as well as young people and children themselves, can play an important part in making World Children’s Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations.

World Children’s Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote, and celebrate children’s rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children.

Upholding children’s rights is the compass to a better world – today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Intl. Organization for Migration lauds Iran’s services to Afghan refugees

TEHRAN – The Senior Advisor to the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Kim Eling, has appreciated the efforts of the country in hosting and providing services to Afghan refugees.

The IOM official met the Iranian Deputy Interior Minister, Mohammad Bathaei, on Monday on the sidelines of the 76th annual session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, being held from October 6 to 10 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Commending the country’s efforts in hosting Afghan nationals, Eling said that the reduction in the amount of aid from donor countries is the main challenge for the United Nations in advancing projects.

The Iranian official, for his part, underlined that “despite unilateral coercive sanctions, Iran has provided significant services to foreign nationals.”

Iran hopes donor countries carry their share of responsibility by allocating appropriate aid to projects being implemented in the country, the official added.

Delivering a lecture, meeting the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, as well as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kamal Kishore, are among other plans for the Iranian official.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Program (ExCom) meets in Geneva annually to review and approve the agency’s programs and budget, advise on international protection, and discuss a range

of other issues with UNHCR and intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

Authorized refugees won’t be deported

In August, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni announced that more than 1.2 million Afghan nationals—mostly undocumented migrants—have left Iran over the past year, with the highest number of departures recorded at the eastern borders of Khorasan Razavi province.

Momeni said the country is not planning to deport documented and authorized refugees.

“We are only deporting the two million Afghans who are illegally residing in Iran,” he said.

“Iran is not an anti-immigrant country, as it is hosting six million foreign nationals. Since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21), some 800,000 out of the two million undocumented refugees left the country,” ISNA quoted Momeni as saying on July 18.

“These are honorable people who have contributed to the country’s production. Based on regulations, unauthorized refugees must leave the country. If they wish to live here, they have to follow legal procedures,” the official further noted.

From March 21 to June 27, a total of 717,658 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan; more than 80 percent of them have left the country voluntarily.

According to the head of the National Organization for Migration, Nader Yar-Ahmadi, there has been no change in the residency



and the kind of services provided to documented Afghans residing in the country.

On the contrary, they will benefit from more services as illegal nationals leave the country, IRNA reported.

“The majority of these nationals are employees or students; we normally consider employment as a foundation for residency in our long-term planning,” IRNA quoted Yar-Ahmadi as saying.

The official went on to say that the presence of illegal migrants in any country poses many challenges, and in critical situations, they will be the main suspects. Their presence negatively impacts the economy, social, and security sectors.

Global experience has shown that migrants at most can account for three percent of the population of any country. With Iran’s population estimated to reach around 90 million next year, the figure will amount to three million migrants. Currently, there are more than 6.1 million nationals living in the country, which should gradually decrease, Yar-Ahmadi added.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year’s budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.

SOCIETY

OCTOBER 8, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

IRCS, ICRC underline rapid humanitarian aid in Gaza

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have emphasized the need to facilitate the unimpeded flow of humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

The head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand, in an online meeting with the Near and Middle East regional director for the ICRC, Nicolas Von Arx, has highlighted the need to boost global cooperation to dispatch immediate humanitarian aid to Gaza, the IRCS website reported.

The officials also called it essential to rebuild medical centers and provide medical and psychological support to the children, women, and the elderly in the Gaza Strip.

Referring to the ICRC report on measures taken to assist Gaza, Kolivand said the condition in Gaza is difficult and heartbreaking. According to the report, over two million people, in need of food and drinking water, have been displaced. Medical infrastructures in Gaza are destroyed, there are 93,000 pregnant women and mothers with newly born babies, and 25,000 civilians need medicines to survive. These groups should be prioritized in delivering humanitarian aid.

All the countries should collaborate to facilitate the entry of aid and relief teams to Gaza; they should help to reconstruct the medical centers in Gaza.

Arx, for his part, enumerated on the ICRC measures, saying that “following the October 7 attack, some 60,000 Palestinians have been displaced. Our co-workers are still in Gaza and Rafah, which is great. However, over the past 5 months, we have lost four of our staff.” Referring to the field hospitals set up in the region, the official said that over the past few months, the Israeli forces targeted the hospitals several times daily while our colleagues were performing surgeries, but even under these circumstances, we did not stop providing services to war-affected people.

The official went on to say that “an estimated 17,000 people in Gaza need to find their relatives. So far, we have been able to connect about 5,000 individuals with their families.”

UN to continue co-op with Iran on urban resilience, equitable access to housing

TEHRAN –Stefan Priesner, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Iran, has reaffirmed the ongoing support of the UN for Iran to make cities more resilient and improve equitable access to housing.

“By synergizing the Seventh National Development Plan (2023-2027) and the National Housing Cooperation Movement with the United Nations Cooperation Framework, we can build a network of sustainable, equitable, and resilient cities that are better prepared for crises and promise a better future for all,” Transport and Urban Ministry website quoted Stefan Priesner as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing an event held on Tuesday, on the occasion of World Habitat Day, which fell on October 6 this year.

Priesner also appreciated the efforts made by the government and institutions, emphasizing the need to develop comprehensive housing policies and strengthen urban resilience against crises.

He pointed out that the UN Human Settlements Program and other organizations have already cooperated with Iran in different fields, including urban resilience, risk reduction, post-disaster reconstruction, and strengthening critical infrastructure such as hospitals.

Referring to the World Habitat Day theme, ‘urban crisis response’, he said today cities are at the forefront of global crises, from climate change to conflicts and inequalities; but at the same time, they are also considered the main platform for finding sustainable solutions.

The official lauded urban resilience and the role of local governments, mayors, women, and youth in addressing challenges, saying that Iran, like many countries, is facing a severe housing crisis; millions of families in Iran face serious challenges in accessing ad-



“An important part of our mission is to promote compliance with humanitarian law and improve protection for civilians. We strive to prioritize these core issues in discussions between the parties to the conflict,” Arx added.

The official also lauded the IRCS for its efforts to maintain impartiality in dispatching humanitarian aid to people in Gaza.

Immediate actions on humanitarian crisis in Gaza

In July, Kolivand, in a letter to the president of the ICRC, called for prompt actions to be taken to stop the humanitarian crisis escalated by starvation in Gaza, and end the torture of civilians.

Referring to the reports of the World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the IRCS head Pir-Hossein Kolivand said that about a quarter of the Gaza population is facing famine, and thousands of women and children have died because of malnutrition.

Also, there have been reports of Zionist military forces targeting civilians waiting in line for food, the official added.

The letter highlights Israeli actions as a clear example of war crimes and a clear violation of the principles of humanitarian law. The actions of the Israeli regime could fall under the definition of genocide in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1948 Convention.

The official went on to call on the ICRC to utilize all its capacities to expand humanitarian diplomacy with responsible institutions to pave the way for humanitarian aid to the region.

UN to continue co-op with Iran on urban resilience, equitable access to housing

equate housing, and the rents consume more than a third of household income.

From 1956 to 2024, Iran’s urban population increased 11 times, and today, more than 77 percent of people live in cities.

The official went on to commend the government’s policies for prioritizing housing in the Seventh National Development Plan; “Improving access to housing, reducing dilapidated structures, and utilizing modern construction technologies demonstrate Iran’s commitment to comprehensive and sustainable solutions.”

Urban crisis response

Marked on the first Monday of October each year, World Habitat Day 2025 focused on addressing urban crises such as climate change, human displacement, inequalities, and sustainable solutions for cities.

The United Nations designated World Habitat Day in 1985, the day reflects on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns; it’s our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

This year, the day fell on October 6; the Global Observance of World Habitat Day is linked to urban crisis response. The theme focused on addressing multiple crises affecting urban areas – including climate and conflicts – that are contributing to inequality, and promotes existing tools and approaches to effective crisis response.

The realization of the theme, ‘urban crisis response’, in Iran requires cooperation between executive agencies, scientific institutions, and public participation to provide sustainable settlements and healthy human habitats for current and future generations.



OCTOBER 8, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:56 Dawn: 4:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:06 (tomorrow)

Hundreds of Dutch-Belgium cultural institutions announce boycotts to Israel

More than 300 museums, arts, and cultural organizations in the Netherlands and Belgium have announced cultural boycotts of Israel.

They said they would cut ties with Israeli institutions over the war in Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank, VOI reported.

The declaration signed by 302 institutions and 878 individual artists stated that the cultural sector could no longer remain silent in the face of “war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide recognized by all competent authorities”.

“As members of the Dutch and Belgian cultural sectors, we refuse to remain silent in the face of genocide against the Palestinian people,” the statement said.

They stressed the boycott was aimed at Israeli state agencies and companies involved in human rights abuses, not Jewish individuals or Israeli citizens in general.

The move follows calls that have long been voiced by Palestinian artists and civil society. The declaration adds that institutions that openly oppose the practice of genocide, occupation, and apartheid will be excluded.

The boycott includes major institutions such as the Bonnefanten Museum in Maastricht, Museum of Fine Arts at Ghent, Festival Film Netherlands, Holland Opera, and Royal Theater Flemish.

Famous figures including painter Dumas, writer Tom Lanoye, historian David Van Reybrouck, author Ramsey Nasr, and sociologist Sinan Cankaya also signed the cultural boycott statement.

The declaration condemns Israel's attacks on religious sites, schools, libraries, and cultural heritage in Gaza, by declaring journalists, aid workers, medical staff, and artists also target-

ed.

The declaration states Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem face “increasingly impossible” conditions under decades of oppression and eviction.

The statement reiterated the cultural boycott of contributing to the end of apartheid in South Africa, recording more than 5,000 film professionals and 400 musicians recently taking similar steps against Israeli institutions.

“This cultural boycott alone will not stop genocide and occupation. That is why we call on the world of sports, academics, businesses, and politics to also cut ties. Only together can we force Israel to comply with international law,” the statement read.

At least 67,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip since October 2023, and the number of injuries has reached 170,000 in the Israeli onslaught, the Health Ministry said on Monday.

“Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them,” it added.

Israel has maintained the blockade of Gaza, home to nearly 2.4 million people, for almost 18 years. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed group considered an impartial expert body, confirmed last month that there was famine in Gaza, and the UN's humanitarian chief said it was the direct result of Israel's “systematic obstruction” of aid entering the territory.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Cartoon of Day



Nobel Prize?

Cartoonist: Schot from the Netherlands

Austria to host commemoration ceremony for Mahmoud Farshchian

TEHRAN – The cultural attaché office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Austria, in collaboration with the Hafez and Hammer-Purgstall Cultural Association in Austria and the Iranian Wisdom House in Vienna, will hold a memorial event for the renowned Iranian painter and master of Persian miniature Mahmoud Farshchian, who passed away in August at the age of 95.

The commemoration ceremony titled “Poet of Color & Love” will be held on October 17 and aims to honor the artistic achievements and lifelong contributions of Farshchian, ILNA reported.

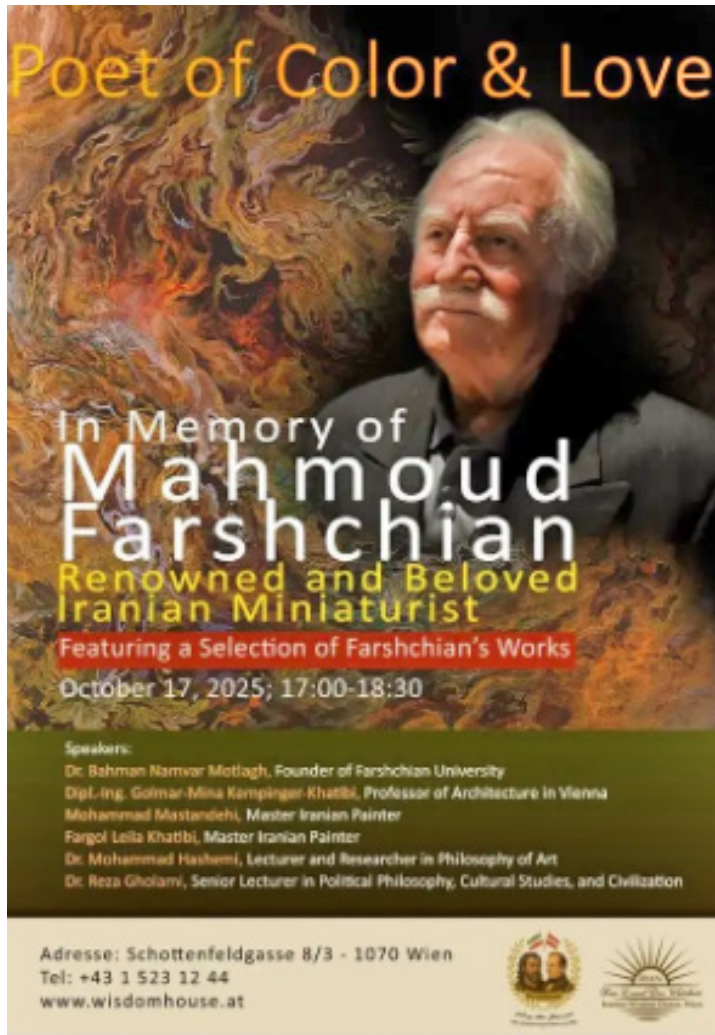
The event will serve as an opportunity to revisit and appreciate Farshchian's enduring legacy in the fields of art and culture.

At the event, a selection of Farshchian's works will be exhibited, and a series of specialized talks will be delivered on the philosophy of art and Iranian cultural heritage.

Speakers at the ceremony include the founder of Farshchian University Bahman Namvar Motlagh, professor of architecture in Vienna Dipl. Ing. Golmar Mina Kamglinger Khatibi, master Iranian painters Mohammad Mastandehi and Fargol Leila Khatibi, lecturer and researcher in philosophy of art Mohammad Hashemi, and senior lecturer in political philosophy, cultural studies, and civilization, and executive director of the Iranian Wisdom House in Vienna Reza Gholami.

Born in 1930, in Isfahan, Mahmoud Farshchian was celebrated as one of the most prominent figures in contemporary Iranian art, known for his exquisite works inspired by Persian literature and religious texts.

Farshchian's work is renowned for its intricate craftsmanship, blending traditional Persian miniature techniques with innovative elements that breathe new life into classical themes. His art vividly captures the soul of Persian poetry, religious stories, and spiritual symbolism, creating compositions that are both visually stunning and deeply meaningful. His mastery lies in the delicate balance of tradition and innovation—crafting vibrant, flowing lines, circular motifs, and dynamic colors that evoke emotion and transcend cultural



boundaries.

Throughout his illustrious career, Farshchian's artworks have traveled the globe, exhibited in prestigious cities such as Paris, New York, Chicago, and Tokyo. Many of his pieces have been gifted by Iranian officials as symbols of Iran's rich cultural heritage. His contributions earned him numerous accolades, reaffirming his status as a national treasure.

With intricate details, dynamic compositions, and a masterful use of color and symbolism, Farshchian transforms the canvas into a sacred space where grief and hope intertwine. These paintings not only preserve the historical memory of Karbala but also evoke timeless lessons of faith, justice, and resistance against oppression.

Farshchian's influence extended beyond his brush. He served as a professor and director at Iran's University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts, shaping generations of artists who continue to carry forward his artistic vision.

Despite his international recognition, Farshchian remained

rooted in his Iranian identity. His art drew inspiration from Persian poetry, the Quran, and sacred texts of Christianity and Judaism, creating a universal language of spiritual artistry. His ability to fuse tradition with modernity has earned him worldwide admiration, with scholars like Umberto Baldini, Italian art historian, describing him as a “phenomenon and a pivotal point in Iranian art.”

He significantly contributed to promoting Iranian art internationally, often invited to speak at universities and cultural institutions worldwide. Several books and scholarly articles have been published about his works, cementing his legacy as a master artist.

His name has been registered on Britain's list of 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st century, and collectors feel it a great honor to possess one of his creations.

Farshchian was among the 40 Iranian artists honored by the National Library and Archives of Iran for their outstanding works created about the tragedy of

Iranian short “Mania” honored at Japan’s Top Indie Film Awards

TEHRAN- Iranian short film “Mania,” directed and produced by Maryam Sharifzadeh, has garnered significant recognition at the recent Summer Edition of the Top Indie Film Awards in Tokyo, Japan.

The film was honored with the Best Message award, and Farhad Mahmoudi received the Best Cinematography award for his collaboration on the project.

Additionally, Mansoureh Tork Zaban was nominated for Best Editing for her work on “Mania,” and the film was also a finalist for the Best Short film category.

“Mania” tells the story of a woman who begins to suspect

her husband's suspicious behavior. Her suspicions lead her to uncover a disturbing secret: he is involved in organ trafficking.

The Top Indie Film Awards is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the talent and passion of independent filmmakers worldwide. Unlike mainstream Hollywood productions that often prioritize branding and marketing over originality and artistic vision, this awards platform acknowledges the immense effort it takes to create a compelling film, regardless of budget constraints. The organization understands the challenges faced by indie filmmakers,



from scripting to production, and aims to provide genuine recognition through a diverse array of awards. By doing so, the Top Indie Film Awards seeks to empower

Ashura over the past century.

The Hafez and Hammer-Purgstall Cultural Association, founded and directed by Hassan Javaheri, is an intellectual, philosophical, scientific, and cultural network without borders. It has been shaped through the collaboration of Iranian scholars residing in Austria, along with the support of European (particularly Austrian) scientists, thinkers, and cultural figures.

The Association's mission is to foster dialogue, critical reflection, and cooperation in the fields of philosophy, Iranian studies, and Persian language and literature, while also promoting stronger cultural relations between Iran and Austria.

The Association currently operates through several main departments, each dedicated to a specific field of intellectual, cultural, artistic, or literary activity. Among these, the Iranian Wisdom House in Vienna stands out as the leading department for philosophical and scientific initiatives.

It is headed by Reza Gholami, senior lecturer in political philosophy and cultural and civilizational studies, and faculty member at the Research Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran. Under his direction, the Iranian Wisdom House has become a hub for academic discussions and philosophical dialogue, with many of its events held in English and accessible online to an international audience.

Other cultural, artistic, and literary activities of the Association are organized through its additional departments, which contribute to the broader mission of deepening cultural understanding and preserving humanistic values worldwide.

The Association's events are hosted in various venues—universities, cultural centers, libraries, and cafés—and often take place in the Avicenna Hall of the Iranian Cultural Representation in Austria, which also provides moral and financial support.

Remaining free of ideological or political affiliations, the Hafez and Hammer-Purgstall Cultural Association bases its work on wisdom, rationality, fairness, and ethics, with a strong commitment to respecting Austrian laws and values.

“Iranian Cinema Night” to be held at Carleton University in Ottawa

TEHRAN – Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, will host the “Iranian Cinema Night” program on Wednesday, screening seven short films by Iranian filmmakers.

The program features a selection of compelling Iranian short films curated by Mohammad Hamzei and Foad Asadi, Mehr reported.

The Iranian films scheduled for the event

include “Unjustified” directed by Mohammad Reza Khavari (2020), “Dragon's Tail” by Saeed Keshavarz (2019), “Dreamless Sleep” by Foad Asadi (2020), “Lost Swan” by Ehsan Abbassi (2022), “Sillage” by Farhad Delaram (2022), “Dabur” by Saeed Nejati (2019), and “Adjustment” by Mehrdad Hasani (2022). All films are subtitled in English and admission is free for the public.

The program aims to showcase recent

achievements in Iranian short films and provide international and Persian-speaking audiences with an opportunity to engage with diverse stories and experiences from Iranian filmmakers.

The event will provide an opportunity for enthusiasts of Iranian cinema, as well as students and researchers in film and cultural studies, to become familiar with new trends in Iranian filmmaking.